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## MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

*New Delhi, the 10th February 1956*

No. 104-NEF II.—The Government of India are deeply grieved at the sad and sudden demise of Shri K. B. Bhatia, Director of Indian Aid Programme to Nepal, on the night of 7th February. Shri Bhatia died from heart failure while on duty at Biratnagar in Nepal.

Shri Bhatia joined the Indian Civil Service in 1929 and, during the early part of his career, served as Joint Magistrate and District Magistrate in various districts of Uttar Pradesh. He rose steadily to more responsible positions in that State and was Secretary to Government for a number of years. His last post in U.P. was that of Development Commissioner in which capacity he made a valuable contribution to the execution of the first Five-Year Plan in U.P.

In June 1952, Shri Bhatia led a delegation to study the development potential of Nepal and on his return submitted a valuable report. In March 1954, when the Government of India decided to set up an Indian Aid Directorate in Kathmandu, Shri Bhatia was chosen as its Director, and in that capacity he directed and supervised the various projects of development in Nepal which are receiving assistance from the Government of India. The energy and the drive with which Shri Bhatia devoted himself to the execution of the Indian Aid Programme in Nepal was greatly appreciated by the Government of Nepal.

Shri Bhatia was an able, experienced and conscientious Officer with a high sense of duty and in his death the Government of India has suffered a great loss. Government wish to express their deepest sympathies to Shrimati Bhatia and the bereaved family.

S. DUTT, Secy.

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